

## Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAB-01 AS-01 /068 W

----- 081366

R 271110Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9457

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 3887

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TS PLO LY

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA BACKS PLO IN MESSAGE TO QADHAFI

1. SUMMARY: IN REPLY TO UNPUBLISHED QADHAFI-BOURGUIBA MESSAGE OF JUNE 3 BOURGUIBA HAS TOLD QADHAFI THAT HE STANDS BY HIS CONVICTION THAT THE ARABS SHOULD BASE THEIR POLICY ON THE UN PARTITION PLAN OF 1947, BUT THAT TUNISIA WILL GO ALONG WITH ANY DECISION ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONFRONTATION STATES AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. TUNIS PRESS JUNE 27 PUBLISHED TEXT OF BOURGUIBA-QADHAFI MESSAGE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SENT JUNE 16, RESPONDING TO A QADHAFI MESSAGE OF JUNE 3 WHICH HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC HERE. (WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT PRESS SAID EARLIER THAT A MESSAGE TO QADHAFI WAS WAITING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOURGUIBA'S SIGNATURE ON HIS RETURN FROM FRANCE

JUNE 24.) TEXT PUBLISHED JUNE 27 IS AS FOLLOWS:

3. QTE I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR MESSAGE OF JUNE 3, 1975 HAVING TO DO WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE:

"I TAKE THIS OCCASION TO CONFIRM TO YOU THE TUNISIAN POSITION WHICH I HAVE OFTEN STATED AND WHICH IS THE FOLLOWING: SINCE THE ARABS ARE NOT IN POSITION TO RECONQUER BY FORCE THE RIGHTS OF WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED, GIVEN THE UNDERTAKING OF THE SUPER-POWERS TO PROTECT ISRAEL AND GUARANTEE ITS EXISTENCE, (THE ARABS) WOULD HAVE MORE INTEREST IN AVALING THEMSELVES OF INTERNATIONAL LEGALITY--HOWEVER UNJUST IT MAY BE--AND IN OBLIGING ISRAEL TO EXECUTE THE PARTITION RESOLUTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION IN 1947. THIS FORMULA WOULD PERMIT THE IMPLANTING OF THE PALESTINIAN ENTITY AS A STATE HAVING POWER TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND DECIDE ITS FATE. THIS VIEWPOINT HAS BEEN INSPIRED IN US BY OUR CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE ARABS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF IMPOSING IT ON ANYONE. IN CASE THE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES AGREE ON ANY OTHER FORMULA APPROVED BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, TUNISIA WOULD STAND BESIDE THEM TO SUPPORT ANY ACTION WHICH THEY JUDGED USEFUL. UNQTE.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT QADHAFI'S MESSAGE WAS PART OF HIS CAMPAIGN TO MUSTER SUPPORT AGAINST WHAT QADHAFI APPARENTLY SEES AS A COMING SELLOUT OF THE ARAB CAUSE BY SADAT AND THE PLO. BOURGUIBA'S MESSAGE MAKES CLEAR CONTINUED TUNISIAN SUPPORT FOR THE PLO AT A TIME WHEN HIS FEISTY NEIGHBOR APPEARS TO HAVE WITHDRAWN LIBYAN SUPPORT FROM THAT ORGANIZATION AND IS ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN REJECTIONIST ELEMENTS.  
SEELYE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, TS, LY, PLO, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB), (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)  
**To:** STATE  
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